

Q: Ibn-e-Khaldun while acknowledging the external factors, emphasizes more on the internal systematic factors as decisive for the decline of states. Elaborate. (CSS 2021)

Introduction

~~Ibn-e~~ Ibn-e-Khaldun was a great philosopher and hence one of the founders of the sociology. August Comte, the father of sociology, was influenced from him; as Ibn-e-Khaldun wrote a book "Mugadama" in which his famous ~~work~~ theories are mentioned, specially "Cyclic theory of rise and fall of civilization", "Al-Asabiya". According to his concept of the Al-Asabiya: The bond among the members of society decreases as the society progresses towards modernization; the asabiya, bonding, in the primitive, agrarian society was quite stronger as compared to the industrial and post industrial era. Moreover, he said that every society grows first followed by progress, decline and death. The decline of any society is due to both external and internal factors, but Ibn-e-Khaldun emphasizes more on the internal systematic factors as decisive for the decline of state. In a nutshell, when the asabiya, bonding, in any society declines, the growth of that society also declines leading to the death of that society.

Concept of Asabiya:-

Asabiya is an arabic word which mean the strong bond - among the individual. According to Ibn-e-Khaldun as the society move towards modernity for social change, the bonding also reduces. For example the bonding in the agrarian society was strong due to strong asabiya. Also Asabiya in the rural area, are strong as compared to the urban area. Different factors of the reduction of Asabiya of any society are discussed below:

.. Urbanisation:-

People migrate from the rural to Urban areas as there is lack of facilities in the villages, as compared to the cities. The people wants better life style and good facilities and move towards cities result in rise of the population. Due to this, sedentary of society, asabiya of the society decline.

.. Social Change:-

People always remain in the struggle to change their existing condition. The social change may be vertical, horizontal, intergenerational or intragenerational changes. In the Caste system the asabiya is comparatively stronger due to strong social norms and taboos but in class system the asabiya reduces, as it allow the individual to change - open system and hence lead towards weakening of societal bond and it decline, ultimately

move towards death.

-- Modernity :-

Any society always struggle to move towards modernity, which also cause the weakening of the Asabiya of that society. Evolution of society from their existing state towards progress lead the weakening of the bond and results in the decline of that society.

-- Evolution of Society :-

The Asabiya in the primitive society, agrarian society was comparatively stronger as compared to the industrial and modern post industrial society. The social institution in the primitive society was only the "Family" in which there was strong Asabiya. As the society evolve towards industrial revolution the bond became weak and the Asabiya also weaken. Beside the ~~facto~~ general factors, there are also several internal factors that cause the decline of any state. These factors are discussed below:

Wealth :-

The greed of wealth make a person even more hunger for the sake of more wealth than the existing wealth. The greed of the wealth make the person introvert leading to the weakening of the Asabiya and focus more on self gain instead of the benefit of the society resulting in the decline of any state.

Corruption:-

A major cause in declining of any state is corruption. The public office holder, in government sector and the private employees, in the private sector do not think that corruption is the factor of declining any state leading to the decline of the state.

Military decline:-

As per the definition of state, territory is one of the characteristic of any state. The safeguard of the boundary is the primary duty of the military of any state. When the unity in military ~~dec.~~ weakens, the territory is not more safe and the border become porous leading to the entry of other state militant groups that creates insurgency and the state decline.

Economic stagnation:-

The tiers of any state function well when the economic condition of that state is better. As the economic condition progress, a country progress and vice versa. Whenever the economy do not progress and economic stagnation takes place, the state cannot progress more and may lead towards the declining phase.

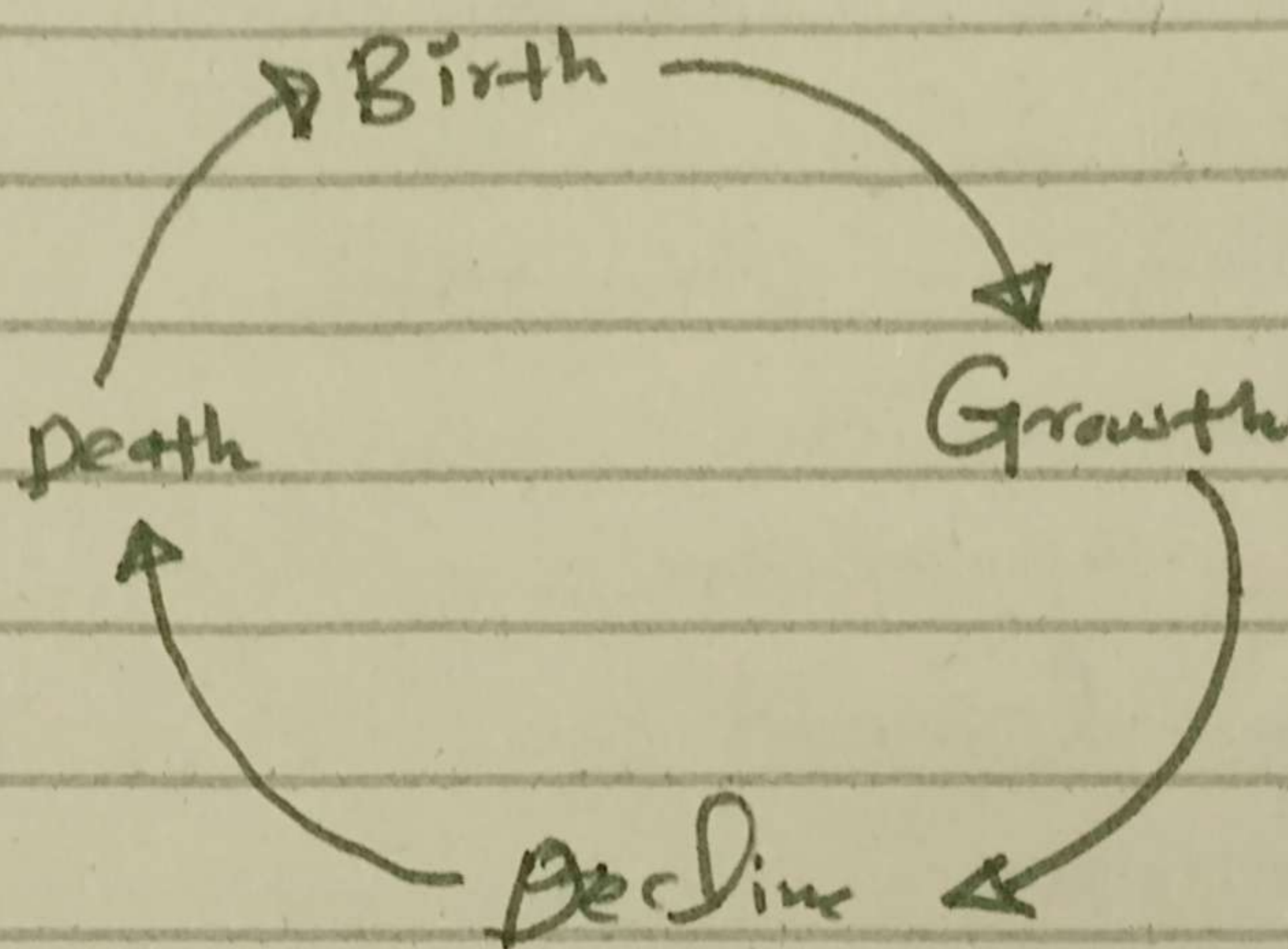
Social collapse:-

Strong state ~~demands~~ needs a strong unity among the individual of its society. Whenever the centripetal force, needed for national integration, weakens the collapse

of society takes place leading to a condition of civil war like situation and ultimately causes decline of any state.

Cyclic theory of rise and fall of civilization:-

Ibn-e-Khaldun popular theory in the Mughal era is the "cyclic theory of rise and fall of civilization". According to Ibn-e-Khaldun the cyclic phase comprises of: Birth, growth, decline and death of society depicted in the given diagram.



According to Ibn-e-Khaldun the declining cycle of any civilization takes place in 120 years. The first 40 years are the growth phase and the progress reaches at its peak; the next 40 years are the decline phase and finally the last 40 years are the death phase of any society. We can also explain understand this cycle of rise and fall of any society in the past history. For instance, the establishment of Muslim rule in the subcontinent in 1206 by Qutub-ud-din Aibek then Tughlaq dynasty and ultimately the Mughal empire in 1518. The Mughal empire rule for 300

year almost in the subcontinent. The growth was on peak till 1717 and then it started declining onward, ultimately the British defeat them in the war of independence in 1856 and take control on it in 1857.

Social Consequences:-

The decline in any state has worse effect on its society members. Although there are several consequences of the decline of any state, ~~but yet~~ but some factors includes:

- - Poverty
- - Increase in Crime rate
- - Weak policies
- - Bad infrastructure
- - Unemployment
- - Terrorism
- - Weak judicial system
- - Law conflict

Conclusion:-

In a nutshell the weakening of Asabiya causes decline and even death of society. Although society is developing further, yet there is need of the strong bond among the individual of the society irrespective of self interest. The Asabiya in the primitive and agrarian society was strong because there was there was strong Asabiya among its individual. As the society progress towards modernization, the force weaken and leads toward, the decline

of any society. The history also teach
us that a state decline is due to
weak Asabiya in the society — prioritized self-
interest over national interest. Therefore, great
poet Allama Iqbal said:

بہشت و جہنم میں رہو، مگر وطن پرست نہ بنو۔

Remain stigmat with the stunk, nation, and
Keep hope for Autumn-progress of nation.
